• COLORADO RIVER •

AQUEDUCT NEWS

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

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Washington Report on Colorado River Bills

In the session of Congress ended Oct. 19th, the Colorado River controversy raged in both the House and the Senate.

At this time of writing, there is no indication that the intensity of the conflict will lessen during the second session of the 81st Congress. Instead, there is every reason to believe that Arizona will strive for a showdown on H.R. 934, and S. 75, the Central Arizona Project bills.

An analysis of events in Washington during the last 10 months shows the following:

THE SENATE: Senators McFarland and Hayden of Arizona reintroduced the Central Arizona Project Bill, S. 75, and Senators Downey, Knowland, McCarran and Malone of California and Nevada reintroduced S.J.R. 4, a resolution to take the Colorado River controversy before the Supreme Court for settlement.

The Arizona project bill calls for an appropriation of $738,000,000 to build the largest and most fantastic irrigation diversion project ever proposed. Inasmuch as there already is a deficit of water in the Colorado River, water for the Arizona project would have to be taken from California's share. The estimated cost of the Arizona project is completely deceptive and inadequate. In addition, great dams, tunnels, canals and other works would have to be built to protect the project, and the true cost would be more than double the original estimate.

Arizona does not intend to pay any of the construction costs, nor would Arizona pay even all the cost of operation and maintenance of the proposed project. The huge cost therefore would be, in the final analysis, an obligation against the American taxpayers.

Therefore, under the project plan, Southern California would not only

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Long Beach, District Officials Inspect Progress of New Colorado River Pipe Line



Officials of the Metropolitan Water District and the city of Long Beach are shown as they visited the Victoria Street lateral, a new Colorado River pipeline project which will serve the city of Long Beach. Frank E. Wall, President of the Long Beach Water Commission couldn't resist taking a hand in construction work and is shown pouring cement, caulking a pipe joint. Watching him are, left to right, Julian Hinds, General Manager and Chief Engineer of the Metropolitan Water District; Gus A. Walker, District Director from Long Beach; Brennan S. Thomas, Manager of the Long Beach Water Department; Lloyd C. Leedom, District Director from Long Beach; and Robert B. Diemer, the District's Chief Operation and Maintenance Engineer.

Officials of the city of Long Beach and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California this month inspected progress of work on the new 80 million gallon per day Colorado River Aqueduct pipe line which will serve that city.

Work on the $700,000.00 project was begun on September 14 and is expected to be completed by May 1950, in time to relieve the heavy summer water demands in Long Beach.

At the present time Long Beach and

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Work on Two Pipe Line Projects Nears Completion

Work on two major pipe line projects is rapidly drawing to a close, it was revealed this month by Joseph Jensen, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Water District.

The United Pipe Corporation, contractor to the District on the West Basin pipe line has completed 97 per cent of its work, while the Wucetich Construction Company, contractors on the San Marino line, has finished approximately 94 per cent of its contract.

Chairman Jensen stated that all pipe has been laid on the West Basin line except 147 linear feet at the east end. This short section will be put in as soon as the main line valve and venturi tube are received. Paving and resurfacing has been finished within the city of Gardena and such work as a whole is 60 per cent complete at the end of the month.

Pipelaying on the San Marino line has been completed, along with backfilling operations. The line is more than one mile in length and will cost $85,000. It will be ready for operation this month.

The West Basin line, consisting of six miles of 45 inch reinforced concrete pipe, will cost $1,600,000 when completed in April, 1950. The West Basin area consists of six incorporated cities and other communities having a population estimated as 175,000.

Public Invited to Visit Colorado Water Plant

With the completion of the second unit addition to the Water Softening and Filtration plant, numerous inquiries have been received concerning visiting hours. William W. Aultman, Water Purification Engineer who is supervisor of the plant, informs the public that it is welcome to visit the plant and that guide service is provided.

The hours are from one o'clock until four o'clock each afternoon of the week, excluding Monday, Tuesday, and national holidays. Clubs, lodges, school groups and others are welcome and may be served at other hours by prearrangement with Mr. Aultman. Due to the nature of the plant facilities, children under the age of 14 years would have difficulty in comprehending the operations.

The plant is located about 30 miles east of the city of Los Angeles near the community of La Verne. From Los Angeles, the plant may be reached by traveling east on Foothill Boulevard to Moreno Avenue, and then turning south a distance of about one mile. The second unit was dedicated August 31, and doubles the capacity of the plant to 200 million gallons of water per day. Its cost was approximately $4,000,000.



Looking back 26 years in history, we see the Colorado River near the site of Hoover Dam at the time William Mulholland made his first survey of the river. Mulholland is shown seated in the stern of the rowboat. This month—October—is the anniversary of that survey.

For the RECORD

(The following items are noted from the report of General Manager and Chief Engineer Julian Hinds, filed Oct. 1949 and covering District operations for Sept. 1949.)

Construction—The cost of the softening plant to Sept. 30, 1949 with all but minor items included, was $3,822,948.-22, compared with an estimate of $4,-000,000.

The West Basin pipeline project is 97 per cent complete with all pipe laid except 147 linear feet at the east end.

All pipelaying and backfilling on the San Marino line was completed during the month.

The Victoria Street lateral is 19 per cent complete with a total of 14,742 feet of pipe laid up to the end of the month. The project was undertaken Sept. 14.

Hoover Dam—Peak delivery to the Edison system was 104,500 kw and total energy delivered was 21,233,501 kwhr. On Sept. 30, the water level in Lake Mead was at an elevation of 1186.86 feet, down 6.31 feet since Aug. 31. The decrease in storage was 884,-000 acre feet. The average discharge at Hoover Dam was 18,900 cfs compared with 17,000 in August.

Parker Dam—The water level in Lake Havasu fluctuated during the month between a high of 449.1 feet and a low of 447.1 feet. The discharge at Parker Dam averaged 18,300 cfs compared to 16,500 in August. Peak delivery to the Parker system was 75,000 kw.

Pumping—Pumping with two units per plant was practically continuous throughout September.

Distribution—Water level at Lake Mathews rose to an elevation of 1351.39 feet on Sept. 30, available storage being 92,684 af, a gain for the month of 3,616 af. Colorado River water was softened from an average hardnes of 320 parts per million to 124 ppm at an average rate of 156.3 cfs. The average daily inflow varied from 128.6 cfs to 211.9 cfs. All District units except Compton and San Marino were on the line.

Water Sales—Total delivery of Colrado River water to all agencies in September averaged 295 cfs compared with 311 in August.

Purchasing—The purchasing division issued 248 purchase orders and five purchase agreements approximating a total of $23,850. Freight forwardings included 110 cars of chemicals for softening plant operations.

Chairman Joseph Jensen on South America Trip

The members of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Water District bid Chairman Joseph Jensen bon voyage as he left on October 17th for a trip around South America.

Chairman Jensen was granted a leave of absence by other members of the Board in order that he might make the trip. He will be accompanied by Mrs. Jensen. During his absence Vice Chairman Warren Butler of Compton will assume the duties of the office of Chairman. Mr. Jensen expected that his trip would take about 60 days to complete.



Director Franklin Thomas of Pasadena and the District's General Manager and Chief Engineer Julian Hinds, recently attended the sessions of the American Society of Civil Engineers held in Mexico City. During the program, a delegation of engineers visited with Mexico's President Miguel Aleman. From left to right are Carlton S. Procter, Vice President, ASCE; Franklin Thomas, President, ASCE; President Aleman, Arive Alba, Secretario de Recursos Hidralicus of Mexico, and A. M. Valdes, engineering contractor, Mexico. Mr. Hinds is a Director of ASCE.

New Colorado Line

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surrounding areas are serviced by only one aqueduct pipe line, which is operating at a maximum capacity of 20 million gallons per day.

The new pipeline, officially known as the Victoria Street lateral, takes off from the Metropolitan Water District's Palos Verdes feeder near 189th and Figueroa streets. It will extend three miles eastward along Victoria street to Wilmington avenue. At this point it will be tapped by the Long Beach municipal water system. The line has been designed to ultimately service other areas in addition to the city of Long Beach. The serious need for additional water in that city was the primary cause for the construction of the line at this time.

The line is one of the largest built by the District in recent years, having a diameter of 54 inches. At the present time the Metropolitan Water District has two other pipe line projects under way, one to the West Basin Municipal Water District and the other to serve the city of San Marino.

"Long Beach has long been in a precarious situation in regard to its water supply and the completion of this new line will enable us to catch our breath in the race to keep up with water demands," Director Gus A. Walker of Long Beach declared.

Director Lloyd C. Leedom of Long Beach pointed out that the greatly increased supply of Colorado River water made available by the new line should inspire property owners, taxpayers and citizens of the Long Beach region to realize fully the responsibility they have in protecting California's share of Colorado River water.

"Our rapidly mounting demands for more and more Colorado River water are pacing the phenomenal growth of the Long Beach area," Director Leedom stated. "Therefore if we wish to safeguard the interests and economy of this region, and of all the Southland for that matter, we must prevent any attempt to deprive us of the water as is threatened by the Central Arizona Project bill now pending in Congress."

Washington Report

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pay for the project by buying power from it, but would give up water on which our entire economy depends.

S. J. R. 4, the California-Nevada Senate resolution, asks the permission of Congress to take the 26-year-old Colorado River controversy before the United States Supreme Court for settlement. The permission of Congress is necessary because the Federal Government must be a party to the litigation.

Unfortunately, the Senate saw fit to send both the Arizona and the California-Nevada measures to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs. This meant that both legislative and political odds were against California, for the majority of the committee members favored Arizona's stand.

The committee held hearings on both measures simultaneously, with the expected result. The Arizona project bill was voted out and tacked onto it was a deceptive rider calling for Supreme Court consideration of the controversial legal issues. This left the way clear for construction of the project, should the Congress so decree, regardless of what action, if any, may be taken by the Court.

The bill was not called up for a vote at the first session of Congress.

THE HOUSE: Legislation identical with that in the Senate was introduced in the House at the beginning of the past session. H.R. 934, the Arizona project bill, was sent to the Committee on Public Lands, where California found itself facing another unfortunate political situation. Rep. Murdock of Arizona who introduced the Arizona bill, was also chairman of the subcommittee on Reclamation and Irrigation to which the Arizona bill was assigned for hearing. Thus, Murdock sat as chairman during hearings on his own bill.

Political lines were forgotten in the House when it came to legislation to take the controversy before the Supreme Court. California's 23 Republicans and Democrats, and Nevada's single congressman, introduced identical resolutions calling for Supreme Court adjudication of the conflict. These resolutions were sent to the House Judiciary Committee. Therefore, in the House the fight went forward on two fronts.

Long hearings were held in both House committees. In the Public Lands committee California was able to muster enough strength to prevent a final vote on the Arizona project bill. But in the Judiciary Committee, California was not able to bring favorable action on the Supreme Court resolutions. No final action at all has been taken in either House Committee.

NEWS FROM FIELD AND OFFICE

Employee safety committees are now organized and functioning, according to the general manager and chief engineer's office. The personnel of the committees is as follows: (1) Pumping System and Aqueduct Maintenance, James Ketner III (Chairman); W. M. Roys, (Vice-Chairman); O. G. Morris, J. A. Reider, E. M. Dussaman, R. P. Adams and L. L. Green. (2) Distribution System, F. D. Chapman, (Chairman); A. E. Preston, W. F. McCleary, L. E. Christiansen, O. L. Crawley, and G. T. Lucas. (3) Softening Plant, R. C. Davis, (Chairman); Lee Streicher, F. G. Naffziger, L. A. Gilman and J. L. Powell. (4) Office, E. B. Rider, (Chairman); Marian Crews, (Vice-Chairman); Ethel Lockhart, E. A. Clarke, J. E. Anderson, and J. C. Williams. The committees meet once each month.

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If you want up-to-the-minute data on how the fish are biting, get in touch with Bill Bowlby, L. D. Reed, L. A. Ledbetter or Mike Weeks at Eagle Mountain. Ledbetter, according to Walt Roys, brought in a nice catch recently.

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Ralph Adams reports a party and dance has been scheduled for the 25th of this month in the recreation hall at Hayfield.

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The folks at Gene Camp are congratulating Fred Peavy, Station Electrician, who plunged into the sea of matrimony on Sept. 21 at Las Vegas. Fred and his bride, the former Mrs. Ruth McPherson, went on a honeymoon trip to Chicago, New York and points south.

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E. A. "Ed" Russell of Gene Camp has just completed a 5,000 mile motor trip through Mexico, spending one week at his ranch in Metlaltoyuca, Puebla, Mexico. Mr. and Mrs. Russell and two other couples made the journey in two automobiles. Ed reports they had a good time but would recommend such a trip later in the year, as they ran into heavy rains. Ed's ranch consists of 250 acres, principally pasture land, although at one time it was used to grow coffee.

* * *

Gene Reynolds was elected and Ethel Lockhart reelected to the governing board of group one of the Employees' Association this month. Anita Trudeau and Ezra Rider are the other incumbents.

Aqueducters in the field and office this month joined with other public employees and citizens generally in the humanitarian campaign to raise funds for the 1949 Community Chest. District employees in past years have had good reason to be proud of their generous response to the Chest appeal. Pledge cards and other forms were distributed to employees during the week beginning October 17. A first report was scheduled for November 2, and the final reports are to be in by November 18. There are now 159 institutions supported by the Community Chest in the various District cities.

Eddie Dussaman says aqueducters at Iron Mountain are rummaging for their long red flannels. Reason—the desert temperature has dropped to around 85-90 and they just can't get used to the "cool" weather.

* * *

There's more than one Union Depot—at least so Bill Ralph found out. He and Mrs. Ralph received a wire from Mrs. Ralph's sister of Wichita, Kansas, asking them to meet her at the "Union Depot" the next day. So Ralph and his Mrs. hustled down to L.A. and began their waiting. After two days in the depot Ralph called Gene Camp and discovered their missing guest lunching with the Ray Whaples. It seems she came into the Union Depot—but at Phoenix, Arizona.

The boys at Eagle are busy shining up their scatterguns with the approach of the duck season, Walt Roys reports.

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The stork is scheduling a big event at Iron Mountain within a few days. The locale will be the Tommy Thompson family. The folks there don't want to be outdone by the birth that took place several months ago at Gene Camp.

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Mrs. Viola Crutcher, employment office, is thrilled over her daughter's first born—a baby girl. Viola can't get used to the idea of being a grandma.

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Jack Bickford, Iron Mountain, was reelected to the governing board of group four (Operation and Maintenance) of the Employees' Association.

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If you want a thrill sometime, ask T. T. Walsh, Field Superintendent of Pumping Plants, to show you the siphon near Gene Camp. "Tom" will load you into his Buick and take you up and over roads now meant only for a mountain goat and then race you in walking up over rocky crags where it seems to the tenderfoot that every step forward slides you backwards two. When you arrive you'll wonder how men ever got there, much less built anything in such a location.



Folks at Iron Mountain this month bid fond farewell to Mr. and Mrs. William Burkardt who will leave when Bill's retirement becomes effective. Bill, who has served this District since 1937 is a utility man. Bill is shown above with Mrs. Bill.